

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



d. Planning & Sustainability Division

May 7, 2020

Carolinn Kuebler
Vice Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3F
4401-A Connecticut Avenue NW, Box 244
Washington, DC 20008-2322
commissioners@anc3f.us

NOI # 20-66-PSD

Re: Notification for the Installation of a 2-way bikeway and changes to on-street parking on 3100 to 3500 blocks of Van Ness St NW

Dear Vice Chair Kuebler,

Pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Amendment Act of 2000” D.C. LAW 13-249 (48 DCR 3491 April 20, 2001), the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is required to give a written notice of our intent to add a bike lanes and modify parking on the 3100 to 3500 blocks of Van Ness Street NW. This letter is being forwarded to notify you and to solicit comments on our intent to implement the following in your jurisdiction.

DDOT proposes to:

- Reduce eastbound roadway to one general travel lane from International to Connecticut.
- Install bike lanes on both eastbound and westbound directions of Van Ness Street NW between Connecticut Ave and Reno Rd NW.
- Add parking along the south side of the 3100 block adjacent to the University of The District of Columbia.
- Remove the left turn pocket of eastbound Van Ness onto International Ct. NW.

The existing condition of Van Ness St NW in this area is a single wide travel lane with sharrows (shared lane) markings and curbside parking on the north side of the street, and a single travel lane with sharrows which opens into two full-time travel lanes on the south side of the street.

This is inconsistent with the remainder of Van Ness, both east and west of this project, which carries just a single travel lane in both directions throughout the remainder of the corridor. The existing curb-to-curb width allows DDOT to add bike lanes, retain and increase parking, and reduce the road to a consistent single-lane in each direction.

This design will improve safety by reducing speeding in these blocks, shortening the effective crossing distance for pedestrians, improving the bike accommodations from the existing sharrows to bike lanes, and will connect the bike facility on Reno Road to UDC and the Metro.

This segment is an important step in expanding the bike lane network, now also used by scooters and other personal mobility devices. Upgrading existing bike facilities from sharrows to a higher level of separation from vehicles is an important part of DDOT's work to improve safety for cyclists and drivers.

We anticipate the following benefits:

- Expanded biking / scooter route for people traveling in Forrest Hills and around University of the District of Columbia
- Reduction of conflicts between drivers and bikeway users
- Vehicular travel speeds on the street closer to the speed limit
- Improved safety due to reduction of existing conflicts

The recent repaving of Van Ness St. provides an opportunity to accelerate the implementation of this project on the fresh asphalt.

All comments on this subject matter must be filed in writing, no later than June 18, 2020, thirty (30) business days after the date of this notice, with the District Department of Transportation Planning and Sustainability Division, 55 M Street, SE, 5th Floor, Washington, DC, 20003 or via email at will.handsfield@dc.gov. If you would like to check the status of this Notice of Intent (NOI), please visit DDOT's website at <https://wiki.ddot.dc.gov/display/NOI>. In addition, if you have questions, have trouble accessing the NOI site or are unable to do so, please contact me at 202-671-3378.

Sincerely,



Will Handsfield
Transportation Planner
Planning & Sustainability Division

Cc:

Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia
Tony Donaldson Jr., Ward 3 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations & Services
Jim Sebastian, Associate Director of Planning & Sustainability Division, DDOT

George Branyan, Active Transportation Branch Manager, DDOT
Donise Jackson, Ward 3 Community Engagement Specialist, DDOT
Troy LeMaile-Stovall, Chief Operations Officer, University of The District of Columbia
Sgt. Michael Clemente, United States Secret Service, Foreign Missions Branch
Christine Kwon , US Department of State, Office of Foreign Missions
Andrea Swiatocha, DC Public Schools, Facilities Division

Ex. 1 – Tilden St NW – similar roadway configuration & adjacent embassies



Ex. 2 – Van Ness St NW – proposed cross section

